

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 25, 1974 in the Gild Hall with Chairman, William Press, presiding.

The minutes of the January 28 meeting were circulated and on motion approved.

Mr. Press requested permission to suspend the regular order of business so that County Council member, Andrew J. Casey, could present the most recent action on the Naaman's Basin Flood Plan.

1. Coordinate retention dam in Bethel Township at headwaters of creek.
2. Construct retention basin below Log Run to reduce flood flow on mainstream.
3. Construct retention basin on Luhman property to reduce flood flow.
4. Improve culvert at Culver Drive to increase capacity.
5. Remove dam on mainstream to reduce flooding in Lancashire.
6. Coordinate State improvement of Marsh Road bridge to handle flood flow.
7. Construct local protection for 9 Broadbent Road, Northminster.
8. Stabilization of the bank near the Broadbent property in Arden.
9. It will alleviate flooding with no significant increase of water through Arden.

In resolutions 71-72 and 72-9, County Council imposed a moratorium on plans for additional development in the Naaman's Creek Drainage Basin "until such time as the County Department of Public Works shall submit a program for sanitary sewers and storm drainage improvements in this area,".

The proposed program of partial improvement in the drainage basin is \$261,000.

Frank Akutowicz pointed out that we had submitted a resolution that the Mill Dam be retained. He also pointed out that the dam is on Ardentown property. He was gratified our suggestions for slow down run off by retention dams has been adopted. This is a better plan.

Mr. Pettit pointed out that Ardentown had not given permission for the removal of the dam, but they had talked with the State Highway department concerning the widening of the bridge over Marsh Road.

A letter is to be sent to Mr. Casey expressing strong opposition by the community concerning the removal of the mill dam. We also requested that the engineers notify us if any heavy equipment is to be used in the stream bed.

Larry Schein presented background for the discussion of the possible annexation of Ardentown by the Village of Arden. They are planning a referendum on April 6 to determine whether the residents wish to incorporate or be annexed. The sewer cost would be paid by Ardentown and not become a joint liability. Philosophically and historically the two communities are alike. From the practical point of view we would have a centralization of human resources, planning, and we might be better able to cope with outside environment.

The question of Arden's Deed of Trust, Charter, and function of the Town Assembly would have to be worked out.

Under new business a special committee will be formed for liason and study of the Ardentown proposal. The Ardentown Committee were thanked for an able presentation.

Ardencroft is also interested in annexation or incorporation.

A motion was made and passed to suspend the rules to permit the Registration Committee to conduct the balloting.

June Kleban withdrew her name from the slate for the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee. Elizabeth Wood was nominated from the floor and since there were no other nominees the nominations were closed.

The report for the Trustees was made by William Morley.

The financial report for 1973-1974 was read and approved. A Copy is on file.

The reassessment of lands of Arden has continued to be a major concern of the Trustees. The question was whether the reassessment is fair; therefore, they asked for a study committee composed of: Jane Aughey, Warren Hoffman, Clyde Davis, Jon VanTil, Aaron Hamburger, and the Trustees, to study the individual assessments, lot by lot. This study showed some discrepancies and at the recommendation of the committee, the Trustees have appealed to the County Board of Assessment Review, the value assigned by the county to one lot--the Harrison leasehold at Marsh and Sherwood Roads where there is a sub shop and barber shop. The county assigned it a commercial use that is out of line with commercially zoned on the other side of Marsh Road.

The Trustees decided to get the opinion of a professional land appraiser, Arnold Goldsborough, on the general question of whether the overall assessment of \$19,000 per acre, is the fair average value. He thought it was a little high for 1970 market value, which the reassessment is supposed to reflect, and more accurate for the 1974 value.

The problem of challenging the figures is complicated by the fact the map of Arden is out of scale and we would need a complete survey of the village which would cost a great deal of money.

The survey work that was done in preparation for getting 51 acres declared tax exempt made one mistake. Three lots that were marked out some years ago and never leased are still on the tax rolls because they remain the property of the Trustees. They will be surveyed and turned over to the Village of Arden and have them declared tax exempt.

The Trustees regret to report that Philip Cohen has been confined to the Delaware Division when he suffered chest pains. He is reported improved today.

The Trustees report was approved as read.

Civic Committee report presented by Warren Hoffman. No significant activity since January. An annual trash pickup is planned for May 7.

Last year, due to the tax situation, the Civic Committee returned approximately \$14,000 to the Town to permit payment of taxes. It may be necessary to defer expenditures on road work this year until the tax situation is clarified. The Budget Committee is urged to promptly determine the tax bill so the committee can plan for road work.

As a matter of interest, road work had been increasing at the rate of about 1 percent per month in the last several years. Due to the oil shortage, costs have increased 25 percent since December. We cannot defer necessary road work too long.

We understand that the sewer pumping station on Meadow Lane will be removed in a few months after the Ardencroft sewer is completed.

The report on motion was accepted.

Assessor's report: Assessors are charged with collecting the full rental value of the land and no person should be given advantage over another. Relevant data is studied. Two open meetings will be held on May 26 and June 3 so leaseholders can present their views.

No report from Budget Committee, Auditing Committee or Community Planning Committee

Safety Committee report presented by Shaul Gladstone: They are proceeding to enforcement of local parking regulations by having traffic tickets printed. Last year, members of the Safety Committee were names as Arden Constables and the technical difficulties of obtaining authorization to enforce local ordinance and moving violations have recently been overcome. Residents who have not obtained an Arden Resident Parking Sticker, may obtain one from Rae Gerstine.

Dogs are again becoming a serious problem around Arden. Last year, the Committee contracted with the SPCA to perform patrol in odd hours. About two weeks ago a 14-year old boy was severely bitten by a dog that was actually held on leash by the owner. This dog had bitten several other children and adults around the community. Legal action is being taken in this case. The Safety Committee is willing to enter the suit as a friendly witness on the side of the plaintiff. Excessively vicious animals must not be maintained.

Rules including prohibition on use of the Green from dusk to dawn will continue to be enforced to guarantee that a repetition of former problems does not occur. On motion the report was accepted.

No report from the Archives Committee, the Harvey Road Committee or the Arden Resources Committee.

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee report by William Morley:

David Burslem has been commissioned to prepare an attractive red wood sign with hand carved legend that will be strong enough to withstand the weather and other elements. Plans are in development to provide an adequate and artistic meeting room. If you are interested in forming a group to use the center, call a member of the committee.

New Business: A motion to establish a special committee on annexation was made as follows:

"Moved that a special committee on Annexation be established to study and report to the Town Assembly on all factors relating to the possible annexation of Ardentown and/or Ardencroft. This special committee shall also act as the liaison group with Ardentown and Ardencroft. Members of the Annexation Committee shall be the Chairmen or their designates of the Civic, Budget, Community Planning Assessors, Advisory Committee, representation from the Trustees and two other residents appointed by the Chairman of the Town Assembly.

This committee should not be represented on the Advisory Committee.

During discussion some felt this should be an elected committee, but it is not a controversial committee, therefore, the motion as presented was accepted.

Following the close of the meeting the following were appointed to serve on the committee by William Press: Joan Colgan and Shaul Gladstone,

A letter will be sent to Philip Cohen wishing him a speedy recovery.

A resolution was made and passed "That the Arden Town Assembly urges that the Municipal Street Aid Fund be retained in the fiscal 1975 State Budget, and that the amount of money allocated to the fund hence received by the Village of Arden be increased if possible.

The Arden Book is under way, type is set and ready to complete. About 2000 copies will be printed and we can sell the excess.

The Registration Committee reported the following results of the election:

Auditing Committee: Ted Davis, William Bindloss, Elvira Grimaldi

Budget Committee: John Grimaldi, Clyde Davis

Civic Committee: Woodrow Vandever, Barbara Fenske

Community Planning Committee: Paul Thompson, Ted Davis

Registration Committee: Kay Ringer, Sally Hamburger, Deborah Colgan

Safety Committee: Richard Lynch, Temma Tanzer

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee:

William Morley, Aaron Hamburger, Sue Dougherty, David Adkins,  
Penny Colgan

Advisory Committee Chairman: Aaron Hamburger

Chairman of Town Assembly: William Press

Secretary of Town Assembly: Mary Morley

Treasurer of Town Assembly: Rae Gerstine

Daniel Weiss, State Representative, stopped in at the end of the meeting to report that the appropriation for the Municipal Street Aid Fund had been approved and signed by the Governor. The necessary forms would be received in a few weeks.

On motion the meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Morley*  
Mary Morley  
Secretary